



THE *Pillar*  
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JULY 2024



LOVING, SERVING, AND ACCEPTING  
ALL PEOPLE  
WITH GOD'S LIFE-CHANGING POWER  
AND GRACE

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## **Pastor's Ponderings.....**

### ***New and Old***

Growth brings change. Change is exciting. But often, the joy of what is new comes with nostalgia for what used to be.

Seven years ago, our family drove to upstate New York. It was time to drop Maya off at college. This was an exciting and happy time of new possibilities and great opportunities. And yet there was sadness. After we had finished moving into the dorm we said our goodbyes. But Maya's nine-year-old brother would not let her go. That was a tearful goodbye; we literally had to pull them apart. It was a great day, a long hoped-for day. But it also meant things would no longer be the same. Sniff.

When a child grows, we celebrate that growth. Yet, we may shed a tear. In *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye and Golde reminisce, "*Is this the little girl I carried? Is this the little boy at play? I don't remember growing older; When did they?*" We're nostalgic for the past; but we still choose growth.

The first centuries of Christianity were marked by terrible persecution of the growing Church. This ragtag group of fishers and activists stood up to the nationalistic religion of the Roman Empire. The empire struck back, arresting Christians and condemning them to death. This drove the early followers of Jesus underground, literally. Catacombs became hiding places as well as burial places. Difficult choices challenged that community to courage and commitment.

The emperor Constantine converted to Christianity in 312 A.D. The good news: Christians would no longer be fed to the lions. The bad news: an underground movement based on love became the religious establishment.

Theological debates specified doctrinal minutia with exquisite detail and rigid conformity. Yeah, it was nice to move beyond surviving persecution. However, something was lost, something less obvious, something harder to define.

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We celebrate church growth. We welcome new members. We welcome financial growth. We welcome full pews and energized outreach in our mission. And... it is OK to acknowledge that something is lost too. The character of the congregation is constantly morphing. That means it's alive. One indicator of a healthy community is the ability to embrace and adapt to change. Our long-time members have persevered, worked, and dedicated countless hours of love and labor. We lift up our long-time members, those who continue to give boundless energy to the church. You are our bedrock, our foundation. You tell us of our traditions, you call us to honor them. Some of you belonged to Brecksville United Church of Christ before the United Church of Christ even existed! You understand our communal story, and you pass it along to us newbies.

And we honor our new members. You bring fresh ideas, new leadership, varied experiences and different paths. Your energy and creativity lead us to dream new dreams and see new visions (Acts 2:18). You show us a new perspective, forged in the fires of your pain and inspiration, tempered by diverse experiences. We welcome you and your ideas as our honored guests, as treasured gifts. For growth is more than people in pews and envelopes in the plate. Growth discovers joy in new paths.

Jesus explores the dynamic between new and old in Matthew 13:51–52. He extols the wise sage who is, “like the owner of a house who brings out of their storeroom new treasures as well as old.” As we grow, let's honor the traditions of our long-time members. Let's welcome the ideas of our new members. Let's draw from our storeroom the best of what is old, and what is new. Above all, let's share our stories, our dreams, and our visions. We listen, we learn, we share and we grow.

The way of Jesus calls us to travel the path together. We walk as companions on a journey. We may be uncertain of the path ahead. But so long as we listen to one another with love and respect, we can enjoy the ride together as companions on the journey.



FROM THE MINISTRIES  
OF BUCC

**FINANCE**

**Statement of Financial Assets May 31, 2024:**

**Sources of Cash**

PNC Bank	23,289
US Bank	7,828
First Federal of Lakewood	<u>26,126</u>

**Liquid Cash** 57,243

Certificate of Deposit	32,588
United States Treasury Securities	<u>133,907</u>

**Cash Balance** 233,738

*Spendable Endowment – Market Value	93,283
*Restricted Endowment – Market Value	66,243
*Stock Bequest – Market Value	<u>43,306</u>

**Equity Value** 202,832

**Total Financial Assets** 426,570

**Less:**

Restricted Endowments	66,243
Current Liabilities – Budgeted Expenses	<u>12,953</u>
	<u>79,196</u>

**Net Financial Assets Available** 347,374

**Budgeted Deficit (Revised)** (44,954)

Available Cash / Deficit (years) 7.7 Years

**\*Detail:**

Spendable Endowment 0642 = Cash \$74,604 + Equities \$18,679		
Spendable Endowment 0641 = Cash \$46,589 + Equities \$19,653		
Stock Bequest – Market Value		<u>\$43,306</u>
\$ Fund + Equities	<u>\$121,193</u>	<b>\$81,638 (20% of total assets)</b>

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## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Are you interested in helping the youth and adults of BUCC? Please consider becoming the chairperson of the Christian Education Ministry. No experience is necessary, other than wanting to help out. Miss Mindy does a wonderful job with the kids. What we need is someone to help coordinate activities for adults and report to council. Please talk to Bridget Sproul or Pastor John if interested.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

**TAKE ACTION ON GUN VIOLENCE** – “Moms Demand Action is a grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence. We pass stronger gun laws and work to close the loopholes that jeopardize the safety of our families. We also work in our own communities and with business leaders to encourage a culture of responsible gun ownership. We know that gun violence is preventable, and we’re committed to doing what it takes to keep families safe.”

Would you like to get more involved? I am not a gun owner, but through the people I've met in MDA, I've come to understand the perspectives of gun owners better, many of whom also support stricter gun control.

Find out more at **MomsDemandAction.org** - To sign up for a virtual 101, follow these steps on the MDA home page:

- 1) Click on **Events**
- 2) Select our state - **Ohio**

The list of all upcoming events for Ohio will be listed - scroll down until you find a Moms 101 Virtual Meeting that works with your schedule. Register and you are all set to go!

I will be posting more information on local MDA events, particularly as we get closer to the November elections. There will often be 'Meet the Candidate' events, postcard writing, and other ways to get the word out across the community. – Sue Maier

**BBH COLONY CUPBOARD** - Students from Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School are reaching out to the community for assistance. The following is recent letter that we received:

*“Although not always seen, the reality of socioeconomic disparities persist, quietly affecting a number of students in our community. Our Counseling Office has identified an additional support that students who are facing financial hardships could benefit from. In partnership with Campus Life, they are kindly requesting that your congregation consider contributing donations in the form of new items so that we may launch a new resource for our students that we will be calling the Colony Cupboard.*

*This initiative aims to create a safe and discreet space within our school, managed by one member of our counseling staff to protect confidentiality, where students can access essential resources during times of difficulty. The primary focus of the Colony Cupboard is to provide basic necessities that will enhance students' overall well-being, allowing them to feel comfortable, secure, and equipped to fully engage in their educational environment. Students will be able to fill out an anonymous survey requesting what they need and will then have a discreet bag to take home with the essentials they need at no cost to them.*

*To ensure the success of this initiative, we have compiled a detailed list of the items we are in need of. Your generosity in donating any of these items would be greatly appreciated. Our goal is to launch the Colony Cupboard on the first day of the 2024 – 2025 school year.*

*Should you require any further information or wish to discuss the logistics of this program in more depth, we are more than happy to schedule a conversation at your convenience. Our point person at the High School is Megan Boulton - if you have any questions about the donation process, please contact our Brecksville-Broadview Heights Campus Life Site Director, Alia Ayette. Please do not hesitate to reach out.”*

**(Continued)**

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## **BBH COLONY CUPBOARD (continued)**

*“Thank you for your valuable time in considering our request. We are sincerely grateful for your support in helping us create a nurturing and inclusive learning environment for our students at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School.*

*Best Regards,  
Bridget Milano and Megan Boulton  
Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School Counseling Dept.”*

The following are specific items that are particularly in-demand:

- **TOILETRIES:** Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Bar Soap, Facial Cleanser, Toothpaste, Dental Floss, Mouthwash, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Qtips, Chapstick, Lotion, Feminine Hygiene Products
- **SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** Pencils, Pens, Notebooks (college ruled), Notebook Paper (college ruled), Graph Paper, Notecards, Calculators, Headphones
- **FOOD STAPLES:** Canned Beans, Canned Tuna, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Peanut Butter, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Mac-N-Cheese
- **ESSENTIALS:** Socks, Plain Undershirts/T Shirts, Drawstring Bags, Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels

## **STEWARDSHIP**

**INTENTIONAL CARING MINISTRY** – “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Creator in heaven.” - Matthew 5:16

Many of us view BUCC as an extension of our own family. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we want to be there for one another when a need arises. There is a very good chance that most of us will need a helping hand at some point in our lives.

***(Continued on next page)***

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## **INTENTIONAL CARING MINISTRY (*continued*)**

Our current protocol for helping our members is to send out word through Sunday announcements, prayer requests or word of mouth, and those that can help, come running. Our Church Council and the Stewardship Ministry have considered that it may be beneficial to create a more structured intentional caring ministry.

We would like to gauge our members' interest in participating in such a ministry, whether that be in a leadership role or as a helping hand. We envision that this ministry will define ways in which our membership can be of service to one another, possibly through card writing, visiting, driving members to doctor appointments or to church, or organizing meals. This group may want to consider what resources are available - both monetary and human resources. Eventually the ministry may want to identify team leaders for different categories of member care and recruit members to serve on those teams.

If you have an interest in being a part of an intentional caring ministry, please contact Anne Melfo in the church office (440-526-4364), Bridget Sproul (Chair of the Stewardship Ministry), or any Stewardship member.

**\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE!\*\*\*\*** - As noted in the June Pillar, the **AED** (Automated External Defibrillator) is mounted on the wall next to sanctuary-level elevator, between the elevator doors and the name badge table. I (Armand Eusanio) will be doing a brief in-service on the device on Sunday, July 21, during coffee hour. There are a couple of brief YouTube tutorial videos posted on the Brecksville UCC Facebook private member page, that provide an excellent demonstration of how to use the device.



***Happy, Happy JULY Birthdays\* to the following BUCC Members! Please share in their joy and wish them a Happy Birthday!***

Joe	Began	July 02
Pat	Rehm	July 04
Allison	Colbert	July 10
Lois	Lorenzo	July 10
Doug	Wrights	July 11
Ryan	Stewart	July 12
Evie	Novak	July 14
Dorothy	Gabor	July 15
Rose	Kaval	July 19
Joshua	Anderson	July 21
Nora	Gagliano	July 21
Mira	Corrado	July 22
Cindy	Burton	July 25
Carol	Van Duyne	July 26
Anne	Melfo	July 27

***\*If you have a JULY birthday and are not included above, please contact the church office so we can add you to the BUCC Birthday List!***



# CALENDAR

## JULY 2024

**Mon., JULY 1**  
7pm Facilities

**Tue., JULY 2**  
8:15am "Holy Grounds"  
(Brecksville Panera)  
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

**Wed., JULY 3**  
11am Mindfulness &  
Meditation  
7pm SCR

**Thu., JULY 4**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Fri., JULY 5**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Sat., JULY 6**

**SUNDAY, JULY 7**  
10am Worship Service  
11:30am Membership

**Mon., JULY 8**

**Tue., JULY 9**  
8:15am "Holy Grounds"  
(Brecksville Panera)  
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall  
6:30pm Social Justice

**Wed., JULY 10**  
11am Mindfulness &  
Meditation  
7pm Council

**Thu., JULY 11**

**Fri., JULY 12**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Sat., JULY 13**

**SUNDAY, JULY 14**  
10am Worship Service

**Mon., JULY 15**  
**PILLAR DEADLINE**

**Tue., JULY 16**  
8:15am "Holy Grounds"  
(Brecksville Panera)  
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall  
7pm Communications &  
Outreach

**Wed., JULY 17**  
11am Mindfulness &  
Meditation

**Thu., JULY 18**

**Fri., JULY 19**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Sat., JULY 20**  
4pm CSB

**SUNDAY, JULY 21**  
10am Worship Service

**Mon., JULY 22**

**Tue., JULY 23**  
8:15am "Holy Grounds"  
(Brecksville Panera)  
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

**Wed., JULY 24**  
11am Mindfulness &  
Meditation  
7pm Stewardship

**Thu., JULY 25**

**Fri., JULY 26**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Sat., JULY 27**

**SUNDAY, JULY 28**  
10am Worship Service

**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Mon., JULY 29**

**Tue., JULY 30**  
8:15am "Holy Grounds"  
(Brecksville Panera)  
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

**Wed., JULY 31**  
11am Mindfulness &  
Meditation



# PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

## **JULY 7, 2024**

Early Usher: TBD  
Late Usher: TBD  
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy  
Greeter: TBD  
Flowers: TBD  
Counters: Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
Nursery Asst.: TBD  
Acolyte: TBD  
A/V: Fred Pedersen  
Snack: Jenn Elting  
TBD  
Setup/Serve: Jenn Elting  
TBD  
Cleanup: TBD

## **JULY 21, 2024**

Early Usher: TBD  
Late Usher: TBD  
Lay Reader: Kate Matthews  
Greeter: TBD  
Flowers: Cliff Cribbs  
Counters: Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
Nursery Asst.: TBD  
Acolyte: TBD  
A/V: TBD  
Snack: TBD  
TBD  
Setup/Serve: TBD  
Cleanup: TBD

## **JULY 14, 2024**

Early Usher: TBD  
Late Usher: TBD  
Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul  
Greeter: Lori Molesky  
Flowers: TBD  
Counters: Marge Culver  
Kathy Pastor  
Nursery Asst.: TBD  
A/V: David Pastor  
Snack: TBD  
Setup/Serve: TBD  
Cleanup: TBD

## **JULY 28, 2024**

Early Usher: TBD  
Late Usher: TBD  
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval  
Greeter: TBD  
Flowers: TBD  
Counters: Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
Nursery Asst.: TBD  
A/V: TBD  
Snack: Jenn Elting  
TBD  
Setup/Serve: Jenn Elting  
TBD  
Cleanup: TBD

# *The Pillar*

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United Church of Christ

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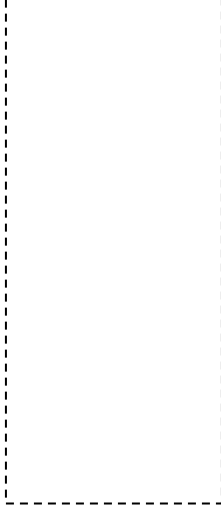
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FIRST CLASS



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